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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 982

By Buttry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Clifford Davis on his selection as a recipient of the 2001 Milken Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clifford Davis is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis has recently been awarded the 2001 Milken Award, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as an educator and as Principal of Cedar Bluff Middle School; and

WHEREAS, often called the "Oscar of Teaching," the Milken Award recognizes those educators whose educational talent is evidenced through their exemplary instructional practices in the classroom, their leadership through promoting effective educational strategies and policies and their ability to motivate students to reach their academic potential; and

WHEREAS, as a Milken Award winner, Mr. Davis received \$25,000 for his outstanding service to the Knox County School System; and

WHEREAS, a recipient of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Alabama A&M University, Clifford Davis began his teaching career at Amelia Love Johnson High School soon after his graduation in 1987; and

WHEREAS, he joined the Knox County School System in 1990 as a teacher at Farragut Middle School and remained there until 1993; Mr. Davis then accepted a position as a consulting mathematics teacher with the Knox County Schools Mathematics Department from 1993 to 1995 when he became the Assistant Principal at Bearden Middle School; and

WHEREAS, he diligently served at Bearden Middle School until 1999 when he accepted his current position as Principal of Cedar Bluff Middle School; and

WHEREAS, it is in this position that Mr. Davis has served with acumen and alacrity, earning the unbridled respect of his peers, students and their parents alike; and

WHEREAS, understanding that parental involvement is essential in the educational development of a child, Clifford Davis has created programs to encourage interaction between families and educators; and

WHEREAS, through his participation in PTA activities, Clifford Davis has been able to foster relationships with parents and encourage them become more active in their children's education; and

WHEREAS, he has undertaken significant programs to inform parents of their children's lives and activities at school; he has created several initiatives including a Cedar Bluff Middle School Website, an open accounting report of school transactions, a published 12-month agenda, School Report Card Night and the *CBMS Newsletter*; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance, Cedar Bluff Middle School has been able to maximize educational time while providing enjoyable learning experiences and extracurricular activities which maintain the students' interests in learning; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis has also added numerous educational programs to enhance the educational experience for the students of CBMS including IDEA, the Accelerated Reader

Program, Career Day, the Sixth Grade Picnic, Grandparents' Day and Parent Orientation Nights; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Bluff Middle School has undergone many renovations to improve the facilities since the beginning of Mr. Davis' tenure; these renovations include a Computer Lab and a Technology Education Lab, which have been instrumental in Cedar Bluff Middle School's State Championship at the TSA State Conference; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to utilize community resources to assist students who have hardship needs and to pursue community involvement in the activities of CBMS; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to better serve his students, Mr. Davis is completing course work for his Doctorate in Administration and Management at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Clifford Davis truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clifford Davis truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Mr. Clifford Davis on being chosen as a recipient of the 2001 Milken Award, commend his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.